

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W

----- 108716

R 222030Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2238

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ES, HO

SUBJECT: VISIT WITH CHIEF OF STATE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 0355 (DTG 221554Z JAN. 76)

1. BRIGADIER GENERAL PAZ, CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, CALLED THE AMBASSADOR ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 19 TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR. THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH THE CHIEF OF STATE ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 20.

2. MELGAR SAID THAT HE HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE OF ARRANGING A MEETING TO ASSURE THE AMBASSADOR OF HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EMBASSY. HE REMARKED THAT HE BELIEVES THAT A GOOD FLOW OF INFORMATION WOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO HIM AND TO THE AMBASSADOR. IN THAT REGARD, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOH FEELS COMPELLED TO BUY ARMS TO MAINTAIN AN EQUILIBRIM WITH EL SALVADOR. HE SAID THAT THE GOH WOULD PREFER TO BUY SUCH ARMS FROM THE U.S. BUT WOULD HAVE TO GO TO OTHER SOURCES IF THEY COULD NOT BE OBTAINED FROM THE U.S. HE MENTIONED ISRAEL AS ONE OF THE POSSIBLE ARMS SOURCES.

3. MELGAR SAID THAT HE DESIRES TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE WITH
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EL SALVADOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE REMARKED THAT HE WOULD

BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF CRITICISM FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS,
BUT DECIDED TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TRYING TO RE-
SOLVE THE ISSUE. HE REMARKED THAT FONMIN PERDOMO WOULD BE
CALLING FONMIN BORGONOVO TO ESTABLISH A DATE FOR A BILATERAL
MEETING TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS ON WAYS OF RESOLVING THE DISPUTE
(SEE REFTEL). MELGAR ALSO SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE TASK
OF BRINGING ABOUT C.A. ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WOULD TAKE TIME,
BUT STATED HE IS DETERMINED TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT
ISSUE AS WELL.
SANCHEZ

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